

# Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Regulations

2005 - 2006

Cameron Prairie,  
Lacassine, and Sabine



## **Annual Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex Hunting Permit**

(Lacassine, Sabine and Cameron Prairie National  
Wildlife Refuges)

When signed and in your possession this permit allows  
you to hunt on Lacassine, Sabine and Cameron Prairie  
National Wildlife Refuges for the 2005-2006 season.  
Your signature acknowledges your understanding of  
the regulations associated with the National Wildlife  
Refuges.

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Signature

Date

**Permits are not transferable**

**Expires 6/30/06**

## **The Complex**

The Southwest Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of Cameron Prairie, Lacassine, and Sabine National Wildlife Refuges. The Headquarters Office is located at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The Complex provides a wide variety of wildlife dependent public uses such as hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife interpretation and observation. For more information about these or other National Wildlife Refuges visit the National Wildlife Refuge Web Site at [www.refuges.fws.gov](http://www.refuges.fws.gov).

## **General Hunting Regulations for All Refuges**

Hunting and fishing regulations are designed to protect the sportsman and wildlife populations. Hunting seasons open on the Complex are listed in this brochure. The regulations within this brochure supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on national wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr>). All hunting is in accordance with applicable State regulations.

### *Permits*

The permit located on the front of this brochure, when signed and in your possession, serves as your authorization to participate in all hunts occurring throughout the Complex, except limited lottery hunts. Permits are required for all hunters. Signing the permit acknowledges your understanding of the regulations contained herein. In addition to the brochure permit youth and senior waterfowl hunters are required to operate under the limited lottery drawn permit system.

Youth waterfowl hunt dates are published in area newspapers and on the Complex web site at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/swlarefugecomplex> during September each year. Applications for the lottery hunts are accepted September 1 through October 20. Please contact the specific refuge where you wish to hunt for hunt dates and application requirements. All applicants are limited to a choice of three dates. Duplicate or incomplete applications will be discarded. Successful applicants will be notified.

Hunters selected for lottery hunts that are not able to use their hunt day are encouraged to contact the refuge as soon as possible so the hunting opportunity can be made available to another hunt party. A standby list will be maintained by each refuge to fill the available hunting opportunity.

### *Hunting*

Hunters are encouraged to use retriever dogs during waterfowl hunts, but dogs must be under the control of the handler at all times.

Access roads and trails may be closed at any time due to adverse conditions.

### *Requirements*

Each hunting party is required to complete and return a waterfowl harvest data form listing everyone's take to the designated check station drop boxes after each hunt. This applies to Sabine and Cameron Prairie only.

### *Universal access*

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to contact the refuge manager for information about special accommodations that may be available. Hunters with disabilities must possess a Disabled Hunter Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to qualify for special accommodations.

### *Archers*

Bow hunters are required to possess proof of completion of the International Bow Hunters Education Program to bow hunt.

### *Activities Prohibited throughout the Complex*

Parking outside designated roads and parking areas or blocking gates or roadways with vehicles.

Possession of any weapon other than a shotgun in waterfowl hunting areas during open refuge waterfowl seasons.

Possession of shotguns capable of holding more than three shells.

Possession of any weapon, firearm, or ammunition on the refuges except:

- (1) When authorized to participate in approved permitted refuge hunt.
- (2) When traversing the refuges by road or boat and only if the firearm or archery equipment has been unloaded and cased or dismantled.

Possession of toxic shot.

Hunting within 150 yards to another hunting party.

Hunting within 50 yards of a canal, waterway, public refuge road or designated hiking trail.

Use of motors, including trolling motors in refuge marshes.

Use of air thrust boats and all terrain vehicles (ATV's).

Marking trails with tape, ribbons, paper, paint, flagging, reflective tacks, etc.

Construction of or occupying a permanent blind or stand.

Removal of any hunting blinds or equipment owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Leaving privately owned hunting-related equipment beyond each days hunt.

Hunting from a tree in which a metal object has been driven to support a hunter.

Use of climbing spikes.

Cutting or removing any live vegetation, limbs, etc.

Importing Phragmites species (a.k.a. Roseau cane) for blind material or cover.

Littering. All spent shells must be picked up and brought out of the hunt area along with other trash.

Camping and vehicles left on the refuge at night.

Fires.

Disturbing, collecting, injuring or attempting to disturb, collect or injure any plant, artifact, rock, specimen or animal on the refuges.

Feeding of wildlife.

Swimming.

Horses.

Animals or pets roaming at large. All pets must be kept on leashes at all times.

Possession or distribution of bait, or hunting with the aid of bait, including but not limited to any grain, salt, minerals, or other feed or any other non-naturally occurring attractant.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages.

Using lights to locate or take wildlife.

Target practice with any weapon.

## Signs and Boundaries

Signs are useful tools in regulating the use of a public area. The wording of the signs below apply to the areas behind the signs. Pay attention to the signs, watch for boundary corners, and check your location with the maps.

These signs apply to all refuges



This sign marks the outer refuge boundary. Public entry is generally authorized. However, other refuges in the system may have different regulations concerning general entry. Always know the regulations before entering.



This sign means that the area is closed to all entry. Do not trespass behind this sign for any reason.



This sign marks the boundaries of the waterfowl hunting areas. This is the only area of the refuge where waterfowl hunting is allowed.

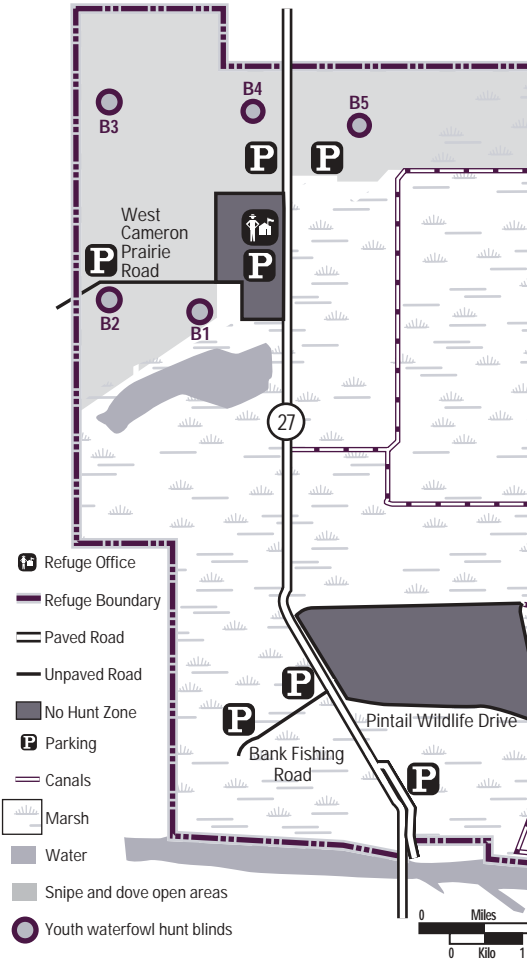


This sign marks the boundary of the waterfowl hunt area. No hunting past these signs.

**Cameron Prairie NWR Specific Hunting Regulations**

Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1988, is located in Cameron Parish in southwestern Louisiana. The refuge is composed of fresh marsh, impoundments and former agriculture fields. Public hunting and fishing is permitted on the refuge during specific times of the year. The East Cove Unit is closed to all hunting.

For waterfowl, small game, and upland game hunts, all youths (15 years and younger) must be supervised by an adult (21 years or older). Adults may supervise no more than two youths on waterfowl hunts. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. Youths must be under direct supervision, within sight and normal voice contact of adult. For all hunts, hunters born after September 1, 1969, must possess proof of completion of a hunter education course.



### *Motor vehicles*

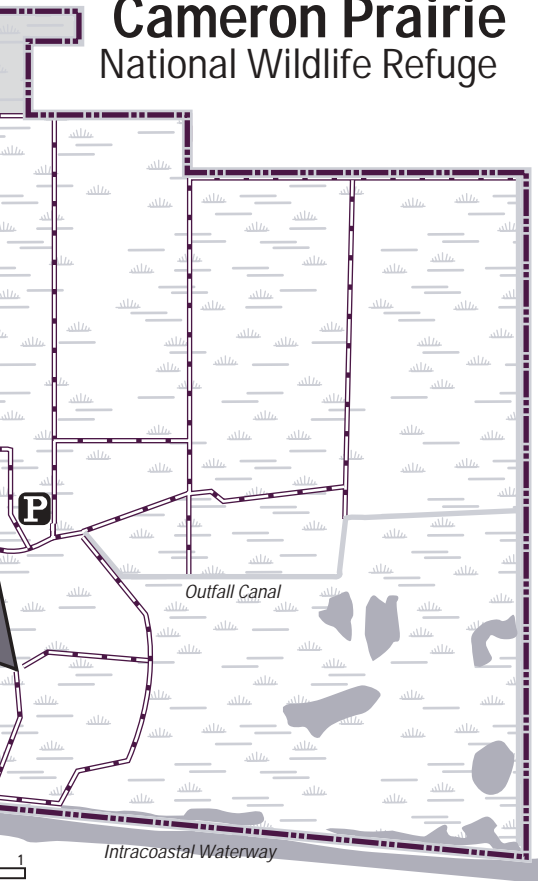
ATV use is prohibited except to disabled hunters in possession of a refuge issued special use permit. Disabled Hunter ATV trails are open October 1-31 only.

### *Closed areas*

Hunting is prohibited in “No Hunting Zones” located around the visitor center, maintenance shop area and the area contained within the Pintail Wildlife Drive (see map). Other areas closed to hunting for management purposes are designated by ‘Area Closed’ or ‘No Hunting Zone’ signs on the refuge.

Youth waterfowl hunting and snipe and dove hunts are permitted in designated areas only. Archery deer hunting is allowed refuge-wide except within No Hunting Zones.

## Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge



	<b>Cameron Prairie NWR</b>
<b>Deer- Archery (either sex)</b>	October 1-31 Bag limit- in accordance with state regulations
<b>Waterfowl General Hunt</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Waterfowl Lottery Hunts (Youth <math>\leq 15</math> )</b>	Saturday and select days until noon during LA West Zone duck and coot season
<b>Waterfowl Lottery Hunts (Senior <math>\geq 55</math>)</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Waterfowl Managed Hunts</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>Snipe</b>	Following closure of LA West Zone duck and coot season in accordance with state regulations.
<b>Dove</b>	Open in accordance with state regulations during the first split of LA dove season only



	<b>Lacassine NWR</b>	<b>Sabine NWR</b>
	October 1-31 Bag limit- in accordance with state regulations	<b>CLOSED</b>
	Wednesday through Sunday during LA West Zone duck and coot season and September Teal season.  Designated areas only.	Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday during LA West Zone duck and coot season and September Teal season.  Designated areas only.
	Saturdays during the second split of LA West Zone duck and coot season. Unit B assigned blind.	<b>CLOSED</b>
	Wednesday during the second split of LA West Zone duck and coot season. Unit B assigned blind.	<b>CLOSED</b>
	“Duck Pond” area lottery hunt. Wednesday and Saturday throughout LA West Zone duck and coot season. Must be $\geq$ 21 years of age.	<b>CLOSED</b>
st	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
ate y.	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

## **Lacassine NWR Specific Hunting Regulations**

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 to preserve wintering habitat for waterfowl in the coastal prairie of southwestern Louisiana. Refuge habitat consists of approximately 34,878 acres of freshwater marshes and scattered uplands. The refuge is noted for its large concentrations of waterfowl and other species of wildlife.

For waterfowl and upland game hunts, all youths (15 years and younger) must be supervised by an adult (21 years or older). Adults may supervise no more than two youths on waterfowl hunts. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. Youths must be under direct supervision, within sight and normal voice contact of adult. For all hunts, hunters born after September 1, 1969, must possess proof of completion of a hunter education course.

### *Safety*

Visitors are cautioned that motorboat travel on the refuge may be hazardous due to water conditions, weather, and restricted view from vegetation.

## **Waterfowl Hunting Regulations**

There is a federal order prohibiting waterfowl hunting on a portion of Lacassine Bayou where it flows through the refuge. See map for areas open to waterfowl hunting. Only ducks, geese, gallinules, and coots may be taken.

### *Hunt Period*

Hunting is permitted on Wednesday through Sunday of the State Louisiana Teal and Western Zone duck and coot waterfowl seasons. The refuge is closed to hunting during the goose-only portion of the waterfowl seasons. Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4:00 am. Shooting hours end at noon each day.

### *Scouting*

Hunters may scout in the hunting area from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset during the one week prior to the hunt seasons. All firearms are prohibited while scouting. Scouting is also permitted during the hunting season until one hour after sunset.

### *Special Lottery Hunts*

Special lottery hunts will be held during the second split of the LA State duck season for Unit B. Hunters 15 years of age and younger and adults 55 years of age and older will be allowed to apply. Additional permits are required. Contact the refuge headquarters for more details.

### *Managed Hunt Area*

Hunting in the area known as the "Duck Pond" is selected by lottery (see map). Opportunities are limited to designated sites open on Wednesdays and Saturdays

throughout LA West Zone duck and coot season. Hunters must be 21 year age or older to apply. Contact the refuge manager for additional information.

### **Big Game Hunting Regulations**

Archery hunting of white-tailed deer is permitted October 1 – 31 throughout the refuge. Hunters may not enter the hunting area earlier than 4:00 am and may not remain later than one hour after sunset. Cross bows may only be used by archers 60 years of age or older and by hunters with a state handicapped cross bow permit.

*Prohibited Activities during Big Game Hunting:*

Hunting in the headquarters area along Nature Trail Road and along Lacassine Pool Wildlife Drive.

Boats in Units A and C.

Boats in Lacassine Pool and Unit D from October 16 through March 14.

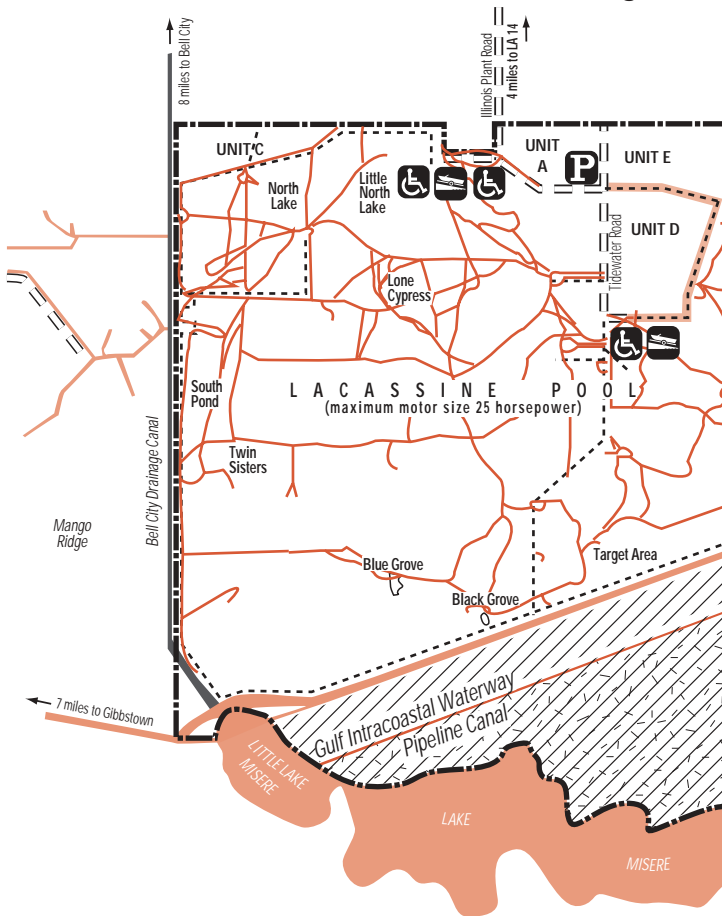
Boats with motors larger than 25 horsepower in Lacassine Pool.

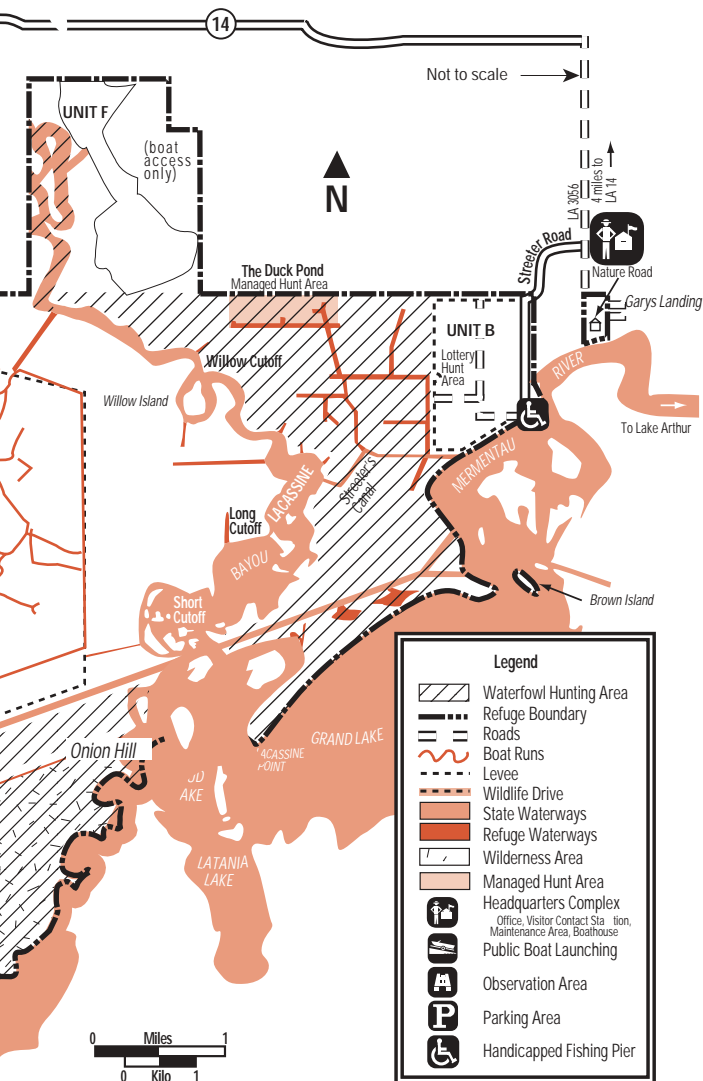
Any access other than foot access to unit F area.

Firearms while scouting.

# Lacassine

## National Wildlife Refuge





# Sabine Wildlife Refuge Specific Hunting Regulations

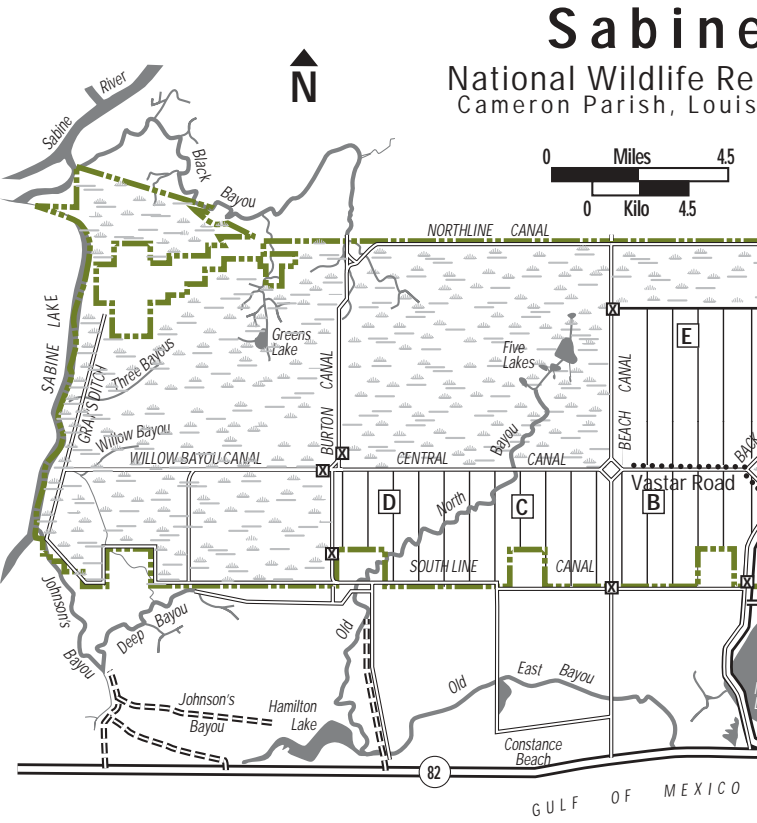
Sabine National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1937 and is one of the primary wintering refuges for waterfowl in the Mississippi Flyway. This refuge consists of 125,000 acres of marsh with numerous ridges, bayous, ponds, lakes, man-made canals and levees, and wooded islands.

Public hunting of ducks, geese and coots on Sabine National Wildlife Refuge is permitted in hunt units designated by signs stating Waterfowl Hunting Only and delineated on the permit map. The total available hunt area is approximately 34,000 acres in size.

For waterfowl hunts, all youths (17 years and younger) must be supervised by an adult (21 years or older). Adults may supervise no more than two youths on waterfowl hunts. Youths must be under direct supervision, within sight and normal voice contact of adult. For all hunts, hunters born after September 1, 1969, must possess proof of completion of a hunter education course.

## Scouting

Hunters may scout in the hunting area from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on the Saturday and Sunday two weeks prior to the opening of the LA West Zone duck and coot



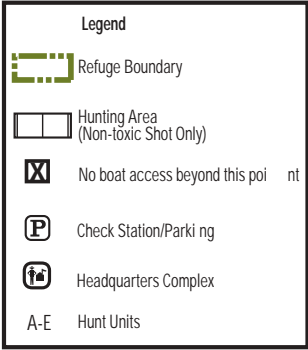
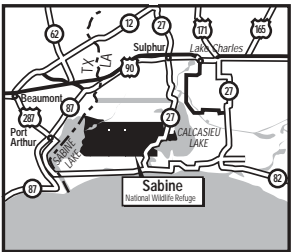
waterfowl season. All firearms and blind material are prohibited while scouting.

*Hunt Period and Access*

Hunting is permitted only on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays of the Louisiana Teal and western zone duck and coot waterfowl seasons. Hunters can enter the refuge and launch after 3:00 am. Shooting hours end at noon each day. All boats must launch from the West Cove Recreation Area boat launches. Walk-in hunters and hunters hand launching small boats may access Hunt Unit E by driving on Vastar Road. No trailers are allowed on Vastar Road. Refuge hunt areas may not be entered from or through adjacent private property. Additionally, the refuge may not be used to access private property.

*Boat, Motor and Operation Limits*

Boats may not be dragged across levees. Outboard motors may be operated only in designated refuge canals and bayous. All boaters must obey the posted “NO WAKE ZONE” areas in refuge canals. Operation of any outboard motor in the refuge marshes is prohibited. The operation of trolling motors is permitted. Use of air thrust boats, ATV’s, personal motorized watercraft (Jet Skis) and go-devil type or air cooled motors is prohibited.



Cameron Prairie  
National Wildlife Refuge  
SW LA NWR Complex Headquarters  
1428 Highway 27  
Bell City, LA 70630  
Phone: 337/598 2216  
Fax: 337/5982492  
<http://cameronprairie.fws.gov>  
email: [fw4rwcameronprairie@fws.gov](mailto:fw4rwcameronprairie@fws.gov)  
Office Hours: 7:30 am – 4:00 pm M-F  
10:00 am-4:00 SA

Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge  
209 Nature Road  
Lake Arthur, LA 70549  
Phone: 337/774 5923  
Fax: 337/774 9913  
<http://lacassine.fws.gov>  
email: [fw4rwlaccassine@fws.gov](mailto:fw4rwlaccassine@fws.gov)  
Office Hours: 7:00 am to 4:00 pm M-F

Sabine National Wildlife Refuge  
3000 Holly Beach Highway  
Hackberry, Louisiana 70645  
Phone: 337/762 3816  
Fax: 337/762 3780  
<http://sabine.fws.gov>  
email: [fw4rwsabine@fws.gov](mailto:fw4rwsabine@fws.gov)  
Office Hours: 7:00-4:00 M-F 10:00-4:00 SA-SU

Complex Website:  
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/swlarefugecomplex>

August 2005

